

the surface and poison all around thorn. The system of reticence and concealment which you pursue is a profound mistake. It is one of the many consequences of that system that thousands of girls are cast every year into the arms of seducers, that thousands of young men kneel at the feet of harlots. Abortion is practised among the married as among the unmarried. Drunkenness is in your midst. Your prisons are full. Your gibbets and guillotines are always in use. Cheating and swindling are commonplaces of your every-day life. Well, I am resolved to tear the veil asunder, to set forth everything, to conceal nothing. I shall shock the world undoubtedly, but it is only by bringing things to light, by disgusting people with themselves and their surroundings, that there will be a possibility of remedying the many evils which prey on the community at large. Eighteen hundred years have elapsed since the carpenter of Nazareth walked the earth. You and your forerunners have had those eighteen hundred years at your disposal. What have you done in them? How much, or rather how little real good have you effected with all your organisations, your great authority, your exceeding wealth, your devotion, your piety, your talent, which at times has

blossomed into genius ? You have extirpated  
nothing  
whatever; your system has tended chiefly to  
the dissemination of hypocrisy and cant; you have failed  
egregiously;  
and to explain your failure you preach the  
ridiculous doctrine of the Pall, invented expressly to account  
for the inipotency of priestcraft. I have nothing to  
say — as yet  
— on the subject of your belief in a future  
state, of your  
system of rewards or penalties after life, for  
good or evil  
conduct in the world, though it is one, half  
threat and half